



Senate District 37

Cancer Profile

October 2010

Impact of Cancer on Your Constituents

In the United States, 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women will develop a life threatening cancer during their lifetime. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 1,529,560 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2010. This translates to 4,191 new diagnoses each day. Furthermore, 569,490 people in the United States are expected to die from cancer in 2010.

In South Carolina over 23,240 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2010 or over 64 new cancer cases each day. Furthermore 9,180 South Carolinians will die from cancer in 2010.

Table 1. Actual Cancer Cases* and Deaths in for SC & Senate District 37, 2007

	South Carolina		Senate District 37	
	New Cases	Lives Lost	New Cases	Lives Lost
All	22,391	4,611	464	217
Male	11,908	2,466	250	102
Female	10,481	2,145	214	115
White	16,944	3,300	342	166
Black	5,125	1,278	115	48

*Does not include *in situ* cases, except for bladder.

As seen in Table 1 there was a total of **464** new cancer cases and **217** deaths from cancer during 2007 for District 37.

Cancers diagnosed in late stages lessen the potential for successful treatment and raise the risk of premature loss of life. Table 2 shows the percentage of cancers diagnosed in early and late stages of disease in South Carolina and in District 37.

Table 2. All Cancers by Stage of Diagnosis, 2003-2007

	South Carolina	Senate District 37
	Percent of all cancers	Percent of all cancers
Early Stage	50	53
Late Stage	39	38
Unknown Stage	11	9

Costs of Cancer to Your District

Using actual cancer cases for this District and estimates from the National Institutes of Health, the overall annual cost of cancer in District 37 was **\$70.4 million**; **\$28.6 million** for direct medical costs (total of all health expenditures), **\$5.8 million** for indirect morbidity costs (lost productivity due to illness), and **\$36.0 million** for indirect mortality costs (lost productivity due to premature death).

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer was the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 16th in the nation for breast cancer deaths. There were **3,176** new female breast cancer cases diagnosed and **332** deaths during 2007 in South Carolina. District 37 had **55** new female breast cancer cases and **12** breast cancer deaths in 2007.

Excellent methods of early detection are available for breast cancer. The South Carolina Best Chance Network (BCN) is a federally funded program that provides breast and cervical cancer screening, follow-up and diagnosis for low-income, uninsured women age 47-64. In 2009, they screened over **15,000** women.

Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 4th in the nation for prostate cancer deaths. For South Carolina men, **3,661** new prostate cancer cases were diagnosed, and **232** died from the disease in 2007. In District 37

in 2007, there were **78** new prostate cancer cases with **10** deaths.

The ACS recommends that men with at least a ten-year life expectancy begin prostate cancer screening at age 50 through yearly digital rectal examinations (DRE) and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) tests.

Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is the 4th most common cancer in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 21st in the nation for colorectal cancer deaths. There were **2,148** new colorectal cancer cases and **387** colorectal cancer deaths in 2007. In District 37 there were **47** cases and **20** colorectal cancer deaths in 2007.

Currently, there are five different screening options for colorectal cancer. It is recommended that everyone, beginning at age 50, have a colonoscopy every 10 years.

Lung Cancer

Lung Cancer is the 3rd most common cancer in South Carolina; currently South Carolina ranks 8th in the nation for lung cancer deaths. In South Carolina there were **3,405** new lung cancer cases diagnosed and **1,369** lung cancer deaths in 2007. There were **76** new cases and **50** lung cancer deaths in 2007 in District 37.

Oral Cancer

Oral cancer is the 9th most common cancer in South Carolina. South Carolina ranks 5th in the nation for deaths due to oral cancer. South Carolina had **593** new oral cancer cases diagnosed and **87** deaths in 2007. District 37 had **10** new cases and **10** deaths in 2007 from this preventable cancer.

Cancer Policies

The South Carolina Comprehensive Cancer Plan 2005-2010 provides a road map for statewide cancer prevention and control strategies through 2010 and is available at www.sccanceralliance.org.

South Carolina's current cigarette tax (57 cents per pack) is one of the lowest in the nation (national average \$1.45 per pack). The SC Tobacco Collaborative and its organizational members, continue to work with the SC State

Legislature to enact a reasonable tax rate for tobacco products in South Carolina.

To protect South Carolina workers from secondhand smoke, smoke-free ordinances have been passed in a growing number of areas including Columbia, Greenville, Beaufort, Aiken, and Charleston.

In July 2008, BCN received \$2 million in non-recurring state funding to expand the program. Age eligibility was expanded to include women aged 40-46.

More than 50,000 South Carolina Medicaid recipients are now eligible for colorectal cancer screenings through a program administered by the SC Department of Health and Human Services. In 2007, the SC State Health Plan added colorectal cancer screening for its employees and their family members 50 years of age and older. In 2008, SC Blue Cross Blue Shield expanded their coverage to provide colorectal screening for its policy holders.

Note:

Data are subject to change as data sets are updated

The following suppression rules have been applied to the data in the text and tables above: (1) Counts of 1-4 are recorded as less than 5 (2) Counts of 5-9 are rounded to 10.

Resources

SC Central Cancer Registry

<http://www.scdhec.gov/co/phsis/biostatistics/SCCCR/scccrmain.htm>

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American Cancer Society

<http://www.cancer.org/Research/CancerFactsFigures/CancerFactsFigures/index>

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National Program of Cancer Registries

United States Cancer Statistics

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/>



SC Cancer Alliance

<http://www.sccanceralliance.org/>

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